

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

June 26, 2002
City Council Chambers
City of La Quinta
78-495 Calle Tampico
La Quinta, CA 92253

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, was called to order by Chair Michael Smith at 10:00 a.m. on June 26, 2002, in the City Council Chambers, City of La Quinta, California.

1. Board Member Roll Call

Present: Mary Ann Martin Andreas, Dr. Dan Baxley, John Benson, Gary Johnson, Leon
Lesicka, Michael Smith, Brenda Soulliere, and Nancy Wright

Absent: None

2. Staff Present

Jeff Allred, Adnan Al-Sarabi, Ambar Amaviska, Jose Angel, Sheila Ault, John Carmona, Liann
Chavez, Jose Cortez, Francisco Costa, Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso, Jose Delgado, Ron
Falkowski, Jose Figueroa-Acevedo, Rosalyn Fleming, Kristie Taylor Garcia, Jeff Geraci, Teresa
Newkirk-Gonzales, Phil Gruenberg, Abdi Haile, Chris Igbinedion, Theresa Illare, Neal Krull, Kirk
Larkin, Phan Le, Kola Olatunbosun, Robert Perdue, Logan Raub, Ivory Reyburn, Maribel
Rodriguez, Jonathan Rokke, Theresa Schultz, Jennie Snyder, Joan Stormo, Hilda Vasquez,
Soni Wells, Doug Wylie, and Nadim Zeywar

3. Others Present

Alex Alimohammadi, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 4
Bill Bayne, City of Cathedral City
Richard Fountain, "D" Pumping Co.
Mathew Gordon, Private Citizen
Alan Harrell, Coachella Valley Water District
Wanda J. Harrison, Park Avenue Deposition Service
Ian E. Hattie, GeoTrans, Inc.
Randy Hines, City of El Centro
Jerry Horner, State Water Resources Control Board
Joe Lentini, Shell Oil Products, US
Lavelle Lesicka, Concerned Citizen
Rudy Maldonado, Imperial Irrigation District
Karl M^cArther, U. C. Cooperative Extension
Laura Mendoza, Wayne Perry, Inc.
Sam Milliken, Private Citizen
Joanne Moore, Western Farms
Lori Okun, State Water Resources Control Board - OCC
Ben Olson, Olson Engineering

Rex Sharp, Valley Sanitary District
Pete Silva, State Water Resources Control Board Member
Chad Smith, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
George Stettler, City of Cathedral City
Robert Voorhies, United States Marine Corps
Peter Wulfman, San Bernardino County, Dept. of Public Works
Tom Wyper, Wayne Perry, Inc.

4. Minutes

Meeting of May 8, 2002

NOTE: Ms. Andreas abstained from voting on this item.

MOTION: Ms. Wright moved, Mr. Lesicka seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the Minutes be approved as submitted.

5. Public Forum

- Chad Smith, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, stated that he did not object to the issuance of the NPDES Permit for the Needles Landfill, but would like to submit a document for the record regarding chromium and other pollution in the Needles area.

Phil Gruenberg, Regional Board Executive Officer, stated that the Regional Board is aware of the chromium situation at the Needles Landfill, will continue to monitor it very carefully, and will be ready to take appropriate action if necessary.

- George Stettler, Mayor of Cathedral City, reported that a project is currently underway to construct sewers and eliminate septic tank waste systems in the cove area of Cathedral City. He thanked Regional Board staff for their continuous assistance in this matter and asked that they give favorable consideration to funding requests for this project.

6. Uncontested Waste Discharge Requirements

NOTE: Proposed Board Order No. R7-2002-0127 was pulled from the Uncontested Items calendar for further discussion.

A. NPDES Permits

KL	R7-2002-0103	United States Bureau of Reclamation, Owner/Operator, Parker Dam and Power Plant Drinking Water Facility - Parker Dam, San Bernardino County (Updated Order)
KL	R7-2002-0126	Seeley County Water District, Owner/Operator, Seeley County Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Wastewater Collection and Disposal Systems – Seeley, Imperial County (Updated Order)
JS	R7-2002-1000	Discharges of Extracted and Treated Groundwater Resulting from the Cleanup of Groundwater Polluted by Volatile Organic Constituents into Surface Waters (Updated Order)

B. Waste Discharge Requirements

NK	R7-2002-0012	Blythe Energy, LLC, Owner/Operator, Blythe Energy Project Wastewater Evaporation Ponds - Blythe, Riverside County (New Order)
LC	R7-2002-0104	Imperial County, Owner/Operator, Calexico Class III Waste Management Facility – Calexico, Imperial County (Updated Order)
LC	R7-2002-0105	Imperial County, Owner/Operator, Imperial Class III Waste Management Facility – Imperial, Imperial County (Updated Order)
NK	R7-2002-0106	Armtec Defense Products Company, Inc., Owner/Operator - South of Coachella, Riverside County (Updated Order)
LC	R7-2002-0119	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Owner/Lessor, County of San Bernardino Solid Waste Management Division, Operator/Lessee, Parker Dam Sanitary Landfill – Southwest of Parker Dam, San Bernardino County (Updated Order)
LC	R7-2002-0121	Tarmac California, Inc., Massey Sand and Rock Company and Granite Construction Company, Owners/Operators, Granite Waste Management Facility, Class III and Inert Landfill – Indio, Riverside County (Updated Order)
LC	R7-2002-0122	County of San Bernardino, Owner/Operator, Needles Waste Management Facility, Class III Landfill, Class II Surface Impoundments – South of Needles, San Bernardino County (Updated Order)
NK	R7-2002-0124	County of San Bernardino, Owner/Operator, Morongo Valley Sanitary Landfill, Class III Landfill – Morongo Valley, San Bernardino County (Updated Order)
NK	R7-2002-0125	County of San Bernardino, Owner/Operator, Lucerne Valley Waste Management Facility, Class III Sanitary Landfill – Northeast of Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County (Updated Order)
MOTION: Dr. Baxley moved, Ms. Wright seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Board Orders No. R7-2002-0012, R7-2002-0103, R7-2002-0104, R7-2002-0105, R7-2002-0106, R7-2002-0119, R7-2002-0121, R7-2002-0122, R7-2002-0124, R7-2002-0125, R7-2002-0126, and R7-2002-1000, including the errata, be adopted.		

7. Uncontested Waste Discharge Requirement (Pulled for Discussion)

KL	R7-2002-0127	County of San Bernardino, Owner/Operator, Landers Waste Management Facility, Class III Landfill, Class II Surface Impoundments – Northwest of Joshua Tree, San Bernardino County (Updated Order)
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Richard Fountain, “D” Pumping Company, expressed concerns regarding the prohibition of dumping grease trap waste at the Landers Landfill.

Liann Chavez, Regional Board staff, reported that this prohibition had been removed from the proposed Board Order.

MOTION: Mr. Johnson moved, Ms. Wright seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Board Order No. R7-2002-0127, including the errata, be adopted.

8. Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of Resolution No. R7-2002-0134 and Board Order No. R7-2002-0007 for Senator Wash Recreation Area Septic Tank/Oxidation-Evaporation Basin Disposal Facilities

Mr. Gruenberg recommended adoption of Resolution No. R7-2002-0134 and Board Order No. R7-2002-0007.

MOTION: Mr. Benson moved, Ms. Wright seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Ms. Andreas, Dr. Baxley, Mr. Benson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lesicka, Mr. Smith, Ms. Soulliere and Ms. Wright

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously that Resolution No. R7-2002-0134 be adopted.

MOTION: Ms. Andreas moved, Mr. Smith seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Ms. Andreas, Dr. Baxley, Mr. Benson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lesicka, Mr. Smith, Ms. Soulliere and Ms. Wright

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously that Board Order No. R7-2002-0007 be adopted.

9. Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of Resolution No. R7-2002-0097, Basin Plan Amendment to Incorporate a Siltation/Sedimentation TMDL for the New River

The hearing was called to order and those planning to testify took the appropriate oath.

NOTE: Mr. Benson recused himself from this item.

Teresa Newkirk-Gonzales, Regional Board staff, introduced the item and called upon staff.

Jose Cortez, Regional Board staff, explained the implementation process of the TMDL.

Theresa Schultz, Regional Board staff, discussed the CEQA portion of the TMDL.

Ms. Newkirk-Gonzales introduced the Board files, staff report, comment letters, responses to comment letters, and presentation as part of the record.

Mr. Gruenberg recommended adoption of Resolution No. R7-2002-0097.

MOTION: Ms. Wright moved, Ms. Andreas seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Ms. Andreas, Dr. Baxley, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lesicka, Mr. Smith, Ms. Soulliere and Ms. Wright

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously that Resolution No. R7-2002-0097 be adopted.

10. Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of Resolution No. R7-2002-0132, Completion of the 2001 Triennial Review of the 1994 Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region

The hearing was called to order and those planning to testify took the appropriate oath.

Joan Stormo, Regional Board staff, gave a brief summary of the Triennial Review process. She then introduced the Board files, draft Triennial Review List, draft Triennial Review Workplan, comment letters, responses to comment letters and presentation as part of the record.

Lori Okun, Regional Board Legal Counsel, suggested that the errata on this item be changed to refer to the Basin Plan as the "1994 Basin Plan including any amendments to date" as opposed to "2002 Basin Plan".

Mr. Gruenberg recommended adoption of Resolution No. R7-2002-0132 including the errata with amendments suggested by Ms. Okun.

MOTION: Dr. Baxley moved, Ms. Wright seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Ms. Andreas, Dr. Baxley, Mr. Benson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lesicka, Mr. Smith, Ms. Soulliere and Ms. Wright

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously that Resolution No. R7-2002-0132, including the errata with amendments suggested by Ms. Okun, be adopted.

11. Consideration to Adopt Resolution No. R7-2002-0131, Requesting the U.S. Government to Expedite Efforts to Obtain Funding for Implementation of Corrective Projects in Mexicali

Mr. Gruenberg explained that the errata for this item deletes "in Mexicali" from the title, since efforts may be taken on the United States side of the border as well. He added that the purpose for this resolution is to hopefully persuade the U.S. Government to more vigorously address New River pollution from Mexico and attempt to resolve it.

Mr. Benson stated that he would like the Board to have a meeting in Calexico to address this issue.

Mr. Johnson added that he is in favor of holding hearings in the Imperial Valley.

MOTION: Mr. Benson moved, Mr. Lesicka seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Resolution No. R7-2002-0131, including the errata, be adopted.

12. Informational Update on State Board Activities

Pete Silva, State Board Member, reported that Gary Carlton, former Executive Officer at Region 5, was recently appointed as a State Board Member. He also reported that TMDL Hearings had been conducted in Sacramento and Ontario, and he believed they went very well.

13. Reportable Violations of the California Water Code

Chris Igbiniedion, Regional Board staff, stated that there was nothing new to report and he was available to answer questions. No questions were asked at this time.

14. Regional Board Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Gruenberg reported that he testified at the Imperial Irrigation District Water Transfer Hearings held at the State Board in Sacramento. He stated that the hearings are entering final stages and he believes his involvement is finished.

15. Regional Board Staff Reports

Jose Angel, Regional Board staff, reported on the progress of the border pollution situation. He added that he would prepare a more detailed report to present to the Board at a future meeting.

16. Presentation on the SWRCB/RWQCBs 2001-2006 Strategic Plan

Mr. Silva gave a presentation on the Strategic Plan. He explained the background and gave an overview of the plan. He also discussed how results will be measured, how the plan will be used, and how the State Board plans to stay on track with the plan.

17. Board Member Comments

Dr. Baxley reported that on June 5, 2002, he attended a meeting concerning cleanup of the New River and other bodies of water. He extended his compliments to Mr. Lesicka and Mr. Gruenberg for their continuing efforts in this matter.

Mr. Johnson reported that there was an article in the May 31, 2002 edition of the Imperial Valley Press that stated Mr. Lesicka was recently presented with an award in Washington D.C. He added that it was time for Mr. Lesicka to receive recognition for his efforts. Mr. Johnson also reported that Regional Board staff received a letter from Alexis Strauss, USEPA, on May 24, 2002, commending them for making TMDLs a top priority for the Region.

Ms. Wright congratulated Regional Board staff on their work on TMDLs.

Mr. Lesicka thanked Mr. Gruenberg for what he is trying to get accomplished in Calexico and across the border.

18. Regional Board Chair's Report

Mr. Smith complimented staff.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.